Supply of Water from Ganga to Delhi

†1581. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the completion of the scheme for supplying water from Ganga to Delhi; and

(b) When water from the Ganga is expected to be made available to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) The first phase of Bhagirathi Water Treatment Plant (50 MGD) which receives raw-water through Ganga canal has been commissioned progressively since March, 1984. Supply from the Plant is being given to the Trans Yamuna area and South Delhi colonies since last summer.

(b) Additional 25 MGD is likely to be commissioned shortly. The remaining 25 MGD is expected to be commissioned by the end of this year.

Second Channel in Madras and Calcutta T.V. Centres

1582. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to introduce second channel in Calcutta and Madras television centres;

(b) what progress has so far been made in this regard; and

(c) the time by when these are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The necessary groundwork has been completed and it is expected that the service shall commence in the current year itself.

Closure in Labour-intensive Industries

1583. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether steps have been taken by Government against closures in labour-intensive industries like coir, cashew and tobacco in Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): According to information received from the State Governments, there have been no closures reported of units in Cashew and Coir Industry in Andhra Pradesh and Coir and Tobacco Industry in Kerala. However, in Andhra Pradesh, the State Government have refused permission under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to the management of ITC Ltd. to close down some of the branches of its ILTD Division in the State against which the management has filed a writ petition in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh where the matter is subjudice. In Karnataka, according to the State Government, there has been a slump in cashew processing due to the African countries establishing their own Cashew Processing Plants. Similarly, with the Tobacco Board taking over the work of procuring and grading of leaf tobacco in the State, the Leaf Division of the ITC Ltd as well as some other processing factories in the private sector have closed down their operations. According to the State Government, these closures could not be averted. In the case of the Cashew Industry in Kerala, the State Government have established as an experimental measure Kerala State Cashew workers Apex Industrail Cooperatve Society to prevent closure of Cashew Units.

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†Previously Unstarred Question No. 898 transferred from the 31st July, 1985.